

## LOUISIANA

1. Foreign Associate Teachers – Since the early 1970s, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) has recruited Foreign Associate Teachers of French and Spanish to teach their native language to Louisiana K-8 elementary students. The LDE in partnership with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) has recruited Foreign Associate Teachers of French in cooperation with foreign governments such as Belgium, Canada and France. The LDE has also collaborated with the governments of Mexico and Spain in recruiting Foreign Associate Teachers of Spanish.
2. Memorandum of Understanding – To facilitate the recruitment of Foreign Associate Teachers of French, the LDE currently has Memoranda of Understanding with the governments of Belgium and France. During the 2001-02 academic year, 281 Foreign Associate Teachers of French and Spanish from more than 20 countries were employed in Louisiana schools. The total K-8 student enrollment in foreign languages for this period was 69,960.
3. Foreign Language Mandate – In 1984, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) mandated that a foreign language be taught to academically able students in grades four through eight. The definition of “academically able” is left to the discretion of the individual school systems, but usually an academically able student is one who is performing on grade level in reading and language arts. Although the mandate is for academically able students, foreign language instruction remains optional for other students. Each parish school system selects the language(s) to be taught in the system. Guidelines for implementation of this mandate are included in Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators. Bulletin 741 indicates that the foreign language be taught a minimum of 30 minutes daily throughout the entire school year in grades 4, 5 and 6. In grades 7 and 8 the foreign language must be scheduled for 150 minutes per week throughout the entire school year.

Contact: Carolyn Taylor-Ward, Foreign Language Program Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Education, Email: [ctaylor@doe.state.la.us](mailto:ctaylor@doe.state.la.us).